

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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Legislature. As it's time for us to go home, so many people often think that we're here for our own personal gain or professions, or we're here to try to get something other than the state's business done, and they're wrong. You've worked very hard this session to improve the lives of all Nebraskans. There's always going to be more bills than there is time, there's always going to be more issues than we can get to. But we've stayed our constitutional time, we've done our work, we've done what we set out to do, and I think you shouldn't be discouraged by the lack of any bill that did pass or didn't pass or that we didn't get to. This is a process. We met last year, we met this year, we're going to meet next year. And there is always going to be people who are going to look to you on how we describe this session; each one of them are going to ask you, your constituents are going to say, what happened this session? And I hope that you're able to articulate that, as I know that you are, that we had a good session. And I'd leave you with some of these thoughts. Two weeks ago I had the chance to be with a number of legislative leaders from around the country, almost to a person they're having special sessions because they've had rough, tough budget years, they didn't put money away. They've had difficulties in doing redistricting; they're all going to have, or a substantial majority of them are going to have special sessions to come back and do what you were able to do in a regular session. I think you deserve a tremendous amount of praise and credit, not that those were easy decisions, those were very hard decisions and very personal decisions. But you came early and you worked hard. We didn't have to go until midnight to do the state's business, and that doesn't happen very often around here. And I think you really deserve a lot of credit for that. Each one of us have made some substantial sacrifices to be here this year, some more than others. I know Senator McDonald's is not here at the moment, but I know he's downstairs watching. Senator McDonald, we admire your courage and the sacrifices you made to be here and we really appreciate that. I spoke with Don Pederson this morning, and, Senator Engel, you're in trouble as usual, but that's beyond the point. (Laughter) Don regrets the circumstances, obviously, that didn't allow him to be here the last few days. But he's been engaged with the session from home, very engaged with the session from home. And he and "Jenny" send each one of you